**APPLICATION NO. 10/707,819**
**AMENDED CLAIMS**

To further address the issues raised in Office Action from February 27, 2006 and several subsequent phone conversations with the Examiner, I respectfully submit the amended Claims:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended).** A data storage medium readable only by a designated data rendering system, said medium comprising means for [[subsequent]] controlled and verifiable alteration by an external influence in a manner detectable by [[a designated]] said data rendering system, said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the stored data with the purpose of enforcing at least one restrictive covenant of the data usage agreement.

**Claim 2 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said medium is an optically readable medium.

**Claim 3 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein at least part of the encoded data is data selected from a plurality comprising audio data, video data, video game, computer software, and graphical data.

**Claim 4 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said means for medium alteration comprise at least one structural weakness to assure irreversibility of said alteration.

**Claim 5 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said external influence is a mechanical force.

**Claim 6 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by displacing material composing said medium.

**Claim 7 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by adding material to said medium.

**Claim 8 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein access to at least some of the encoded data is geometrically hindered prior to said medium alteration.

**Claim 9 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by changing at least one physical property of at least some of the material composing said medium.

**Claim 10 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by an end user.

**Claim 11 (Original).** The data storage medium according to claim 1 wherein said alteration is conducted by an end user's data rendering system.

**Claim 12 (Currently Amended).** An end user system for rendering content delivered on a removable data storage medium enabled for [[subsequent]] <u>controlled and verifiable</u> alteration by an external influence in a manner detectable by said system, said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the content access data, said system storing at least part of the content access data and restricting access to at least part of the content prior to said medium alteration with the purpose of enforcing at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement, the system comprising: a reader for reading the content of said medium; a memory cell for storing access data designated to be permanently corrupted as a result of said medium alteration; an alteration detector for determining an alteration status of said medium; a logic unit programmed to deny access to at least part of said content upon detecting at least one event out of a plurality of events comprising: an alteration of said medium has not been confirmed by said alteration detector, content access data <u>permanently corrupted as a result of controlled and verifiable medium alteration</u> is not present in said memory cell, at least one restrictive covenant of said content usage agreement is not satisfied.

**Claim 13 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 further comprising a message display for delivering messages to end user.

**Claim 14 (Currently Amended).** The end user system according to claim 12 further comprising means for compatibility with respect to the types of data storage media not requiring alteration but otherwise substantially analogous to the data storage medium requiring [[subsequent]] <u>controlled and verifiable</u> alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the stored data by an external influence in a manner detectable by said system.

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein access to at least some of the content is geometrically hindered prior to <u>controlled</u> medium alteration.

**Claim 16 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein at least part of said content is encrypted, and the access data designated to be corrupted as a result of said medium alteration comprises an encryption key essential for decrypting said content.

**Claim 17 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to retrieve at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement from the data storage medium containing said content.

**Claim 18 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to conduct a comparative test of at least one restrictive covenant of said content usage agreement against at least one parameter functionally dependent on said content's prior usage history.

**Claim 19 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said logic unit is further programmed to conduct a comparative test of at least one restrictive covenant of said content's usage agreement against at least one time dependent parameter.

**Claim 20 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said memory cell is a

removable modular component.

**Claim 21 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12, wherein said alteration detector comprises: a light source; an optical detector mounted in the vicinity of said light source and responsive to light emitted by said light source.

**Claim 22 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12, wherein said alteration detector comprises: an electric power supply; a contact circuit breaker electrically connected to said power supply, the electrical conductivity of said circuit breaker being dependent on the existence of mechanical contact with said data storage medium; an alteration signal generator electrically connected to said power supply and said contact circuit breaker generating signal dependent on the electrical voltage applied to said signal generator.

**Claim 23 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said data reader is a reader for optically readable media.

**Claim 24 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 wherein said external influence is a mechanical force.

**Claim 25 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 12 further comprising a parameter generator generating at least one parameter to be tested against at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement.

**Claim 26 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 25 wherein said parameter generator comprises a device generating a time-dependent signal.

**Claim 27 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 25 wherein said parameter generator comprises a device generating a signal uniquely identifying said system.

**Claim 28 (Currently Amended).** A method to distribute content stored on a removable data storage medium enabled for [[subsequent]] controlled and verifiable alteration by an external influence in a manner detectable by end user's data rendering system, said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the content access data with the purpose of enforcing at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement, said method comprising the steps of: recording content on said medium; recording access data on said medium; delivering said medium to end user's data rendering system, said system restricting access to at least part of the content prior to said medium alteration; storing at least part of the access data by said system; altering said medium to render at least part of the access data to be unreadable; conducting an alteration test of said medium; retrieving at least part of the content from said medium using the access data stored by said system.

**Claim 29 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein at least part of said content is encrypted, and the access data designated to be corrupted as a result of said medium alteration comprises an encryption key essential for decrypting said content.

**Claim 30 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein at least part

of the content is data selected from a plurality comprising audio data, video data, video game, computer software, and graphical data.

**Claim 31 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said medium is an optically readable medium.

**Claim 32 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said external influence is a mechanical force.

**Claim 33 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said altering is conducted by end user.

**Claim 34 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 wherein said altering is conducted by end user's data rendering system.

**Claim 35 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 further comprising the steps of: recording usage history for said content; conducting a comparison test of said usage history against at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement.

**Claim 36 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 28 further comprising the step of conducting a comparative test of at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement against at least one parameter generated by said data rendering system.

**Claim 37 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 36 further comprising the step of retrieving at least one restrictive covenant of the content usage agreement from the data storage medium containing said content.

**Claim 38 (Original).** The method to deliver content according to claim 36 wherein at least one said parameter is time dependent parameter.

**Claim 39 (Original).** An optically readable data storage medium comprising at least one structural weakness for irreversible alteration by an external mechanical force in a manner detectable by a designated data rendering system, said alteration permanently corrupting at least part of the stored data with the purpose of enforcing the data usage agreement.

**Claim 40 (Currently Amended).** An end user system for rendering content delivered on an optically readable data storage medium enabled for [[subsequent]] controlled and verifiable alteration by a mechanical force in a manner detectable by said system, said alteration corrupting at least part of the content access data, said system storing at least part of the content access data and restricting access to at least part of said content prior to said medium alteration with the purpose of enforcing the content usage agreement, the system comprising: a reader for reading the content of said medium; a memory cell for storing part of the access data designated to be corrupted as a result of said medium alteration.

**Claim 41 (Original).** The end user system according to claim 40 further comprising an alteration detector for determining an alteration status of said medium.

**Claim 42 (Currently Amended).** The end user system according to claim 41 further comprising a logic unit programmed to deny access to at least part of said content upon detecting at least one event out of a plurality of events comprising: an alteration of said medium has not been confirmed by said alteration detector, data <u>permanently</u> corrupted as a result of [[said]] <u>controlled and verifiable</u> medium alteration is not present in said memory cell.

With respect,

Dmitry Noraev, Ph.D.